

1 Samuel 29:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now the Philistines gathered together all their armies to Aphek: and the Israelites pitched by a fountain which is in Jezreel.

Analysis

The narrative returns to David's crisis, revealing the full extent of Philistine mobilization at Aphek. The Israelite position 'by a fountain which is in Jezreel' places them near the spring that would become strategically important throughout Israel's history. The geographical separation of the armies sets the stage for the confrontation that will decide Saul's fate. David's presence with the Philistines creates the impossible situation toward which the previous chapters have been building.

Historical Context

Aphek, located on the coastal plain, served as a staging area for Philistine campaigns. The fountain in Jezreel (possibly 'Ein Harod) was a major water source in the valley. This concentration of forces represented the largest military confrontation since the Philistines captured the ark.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do broader events in our world create personal crises we must navigate?
2. What impossible situations have you found yourself in through circumstances beyond your control?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּקְבְּצוּ gathered together H6908	כֹּל־שֵׂטַת יִם Now the Philistines H6430	אֶת H853	כָּל H3605	מִחֲנֵיהֶם all their armies H4264	אֶפֶק to Aphek H663
וְיִשְׂרָאֵל and the Israelites H3478	חִנָּה יָם pitched H2583	בְּעַיִן by a fountain H5869	אֲשֶׁר H834	בְּיֶזְרְעֵאל which is in Jezreel H3157	

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 4:1 (References Israel): And the word of Samuel came to all Israel. Now Israel went out against the Philistines to battle, and pitched beside Eben-ezer: and the Philistines pitched in Aphek.

Joshua 12:18 (Parallel theme): The king of Aphek, one; the king of Lasharon, one;

Joshua 19:30 (Parallel theme): Ummah also, and Aphek, and Rehob: twenty and two cities with their villages.

1 Kings 21:1 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass after these things, that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard, which was in Jezreel, hard by the palace of Ahab king of Samaria.

1 Kings 20:30 (Parallel theme): But the rest fled to Aphek, into the city; and there a wall fell upon twenty and seven thousand of the men that were left. And Ben-hadad fled, and came into the city, into an inner chamber.